



## **NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE**

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### **Historic Cold Weekend in South Florida**

**January 11, 2010:** Temperatures over the weekend and early Monday morning plunged to levels not seen in 20 years over south Florida in the wake of the arctic cold front which blasted through the region early Saturday morning. Temperatures remained at or below 50 degrees for more than 48 consecutive hours, finally rising above 50 during the late morning to midday hours Monday. Although no records are kept of consecutive number of hours at or below 50, it is likely that this streak is among the longest on record.

Following is a daily temperature breakdown:

#### **Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>:**

High temperatures on Saturday were recorded around midnight, with temperatures dropping throughout much of the day under gray, rainy skies and blustery northwest winds. Daytime temperatures were in the upper 30s to mid 40s over all of south Florida with a persistent light rain falling.

A few reports of very light sleet and snow flurries were received from parts of southeast Florida as the precipitation came to an end Saturday evening. However, analysis of temperature profiles around the time of the reports suggest that it is highly unlikely that anything other than light rain fell across most of south Florida. Areas around and primarily west of Lake Okeechobee probably saw a very brief mix of sleet on Saturday afternoon as the air was slightly colder in that region compared to points farther south.

The cold afternoon temperatures on Saturday set the stage for a very cold night across all of south Florida.

#### **Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>**

This was the coldest day in virtually all of south Florida since December 24, 1989.

Low temperatures ranged from the upper 20s in portions of Glades and Hendry counties to between 30-32 degrees over the rest of the area mainly north of a Naples to West Palm Beach line, including the east and south side of Lake Okeechobee. Lows ranged between 33-36 degrees over most of metropolitan Broward and Miami-Dade counties as well as southern Palm Beach County and the Marco Island area along the Gulf coast. Some sections of the eastern metro area, including the beaches, dipped to right around the freezing mark (31-32 degrees). Although these freezing temperatures over the eastern metro areas were recorded at unofficial sites, enough locations reported the temperatures as to make it quite plausible. Unofficial readings of 32 degrees right to the beaches would be the first time these areas have seen freezing temperatures since December 25, 1989.

A record low of 35 degrees was tied in Miami. The previous record was set in 1970.

Highs only reached the mid 40s to right at 50 degrees, setting or tying daily low maximum temperature records at the four primary climate sites in south Florida:

Miami	48 (53 in 1970)
Fort Lauderdale	49 (52 in 1970)
West Palm Beach	50 (50 in 1970)
Naples	48 (51 in 1970)

### **Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Another morning of freezing temperatures was observed across south Florida (Figure 1). A hard freeze (temperatures below 28 for 4 hours) occurred over much of Glades, Hendry and northern interior sections of Collier County as temperatures dropped into the mid 20s over this region. Palmdale and Airglades Airport west of Clewiston recorded lows of 25 degrees, with an unofficial report in Moore Haven as low as 24 degrees. Freezing temperatures (at or below 32 degrees) were observed all the way to the southwest Gulf coast where Naples Regional Airport dropped to 32 degrees and an unofficial report from Marco Island also showed 32 degrees. Freezing temperatures covered virtually all of the interior areas, and for the second day in a row extended well into the metro east coast. Areas mainly near and west of the Turnpike in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties dropped to at or below 32 degrees, with far southwest portions of Miami-Dade as low as the upper 20s as evidenced by Tamiami Airport's low of 26 degrees. Closer to the immediate east coast, lows were in the mid 30s.

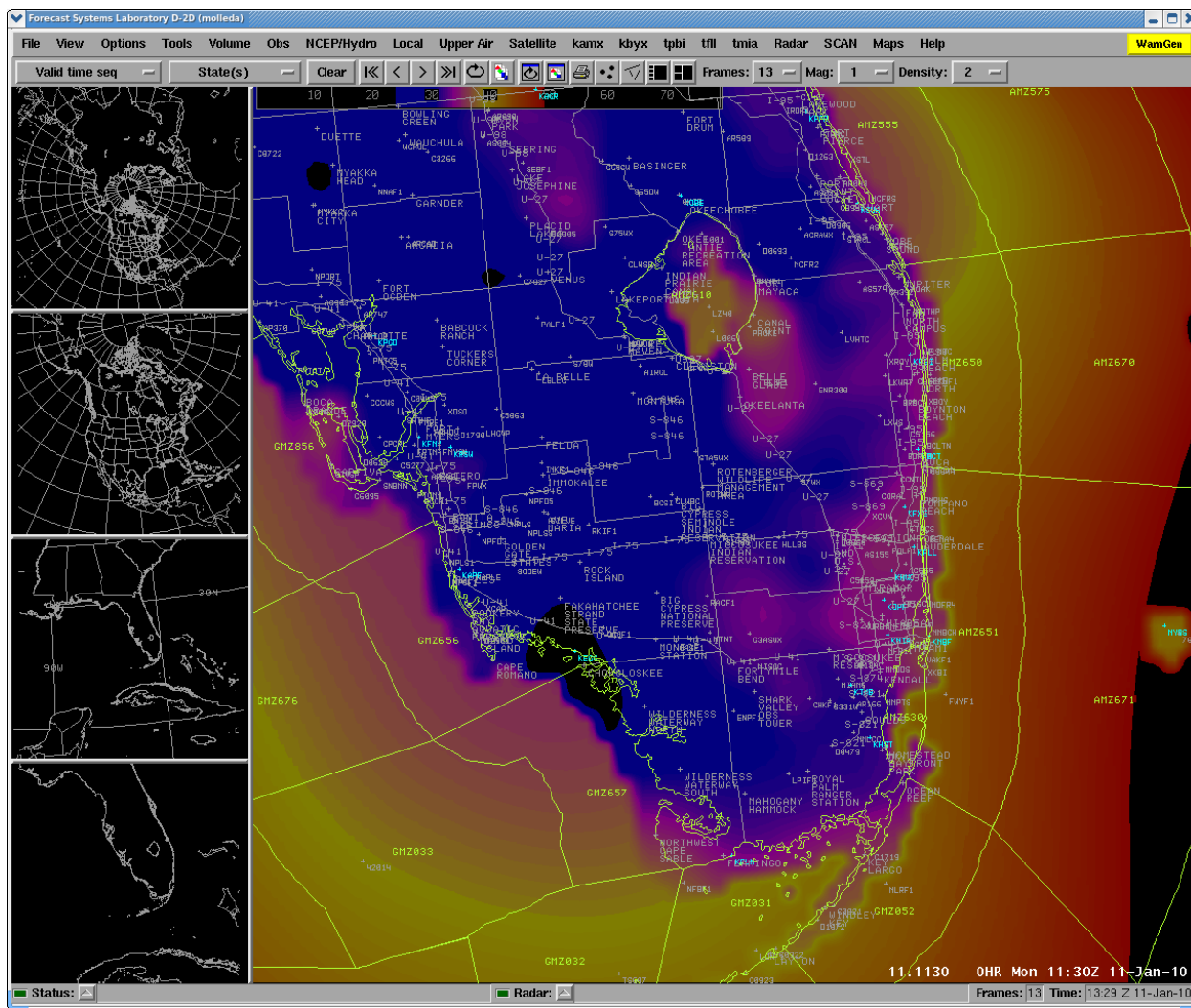
Here are daily record lows broken for January 11<sup>th</sup>:

West Palm Beach	33 (34 in 1927)
Miami	36 (37 in 1927)

### **Record Consecutive Days at or Below 45 Degrees Broken at West Palm Beach and Naples**

In addition to new daily records being set, records for longest number of consecutive days with lows at or below 45 degrees have been set in West Palm Beach and Naples (10 days each). At Miami and Fort Lauderdale, the number of consecutive days with lows below 50 degrees is up to 10 days. This is approaching the all-time recorded streak of lows below 50 degrees (13 for Miami and 12 for Fort Lauderdale).

Another night of freezing temperatures is expected tonight in the Lake Okeechobee region, with temperatures expected to stay above freezing elsewhere. A gradual warm-up will continue through the week, with highs finally reaching the 70s by Thursday.



**Figure 1: Low temperatures on January 11. Areas in dark blue denote temperatures at or below 32 degrees. Areas in magenta denote temperatures in the mid 30s.**